

St. Lucie River Watershed

Research and Water Quality Monitoring Plan Kick-Off Meeting





Summary of Northern Everglades Legislation



Northern Everglades Legislation



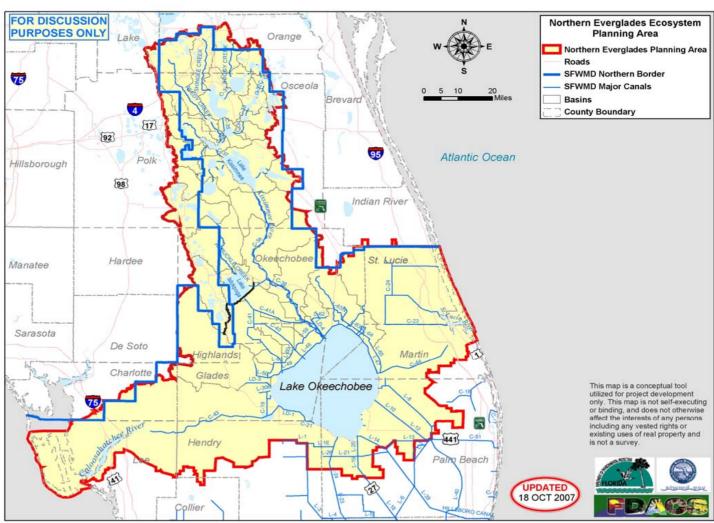
 Expands Lake Okeechobee Protection Program to the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program

Recognizes that Lake Okeechobee,
Caloosahatchee, and St. Lucie Watersheds are critical water resources of the state

 Identifies the need for a watershed-based approach to restoring and protecting these watersheds

Northern Everglades Ecosystem Planning Area





Northern Everglades Legislation



Builds-on and augments restoration plans currently underway

Expands the use of the Save Our Everglades Trust
Fund for Northern Everglades restoration

 Extends the state's commitment to provide funding for CERP and the Northern Everglades through the year 2020

Northern Everglades Plan Requirements



 Continued implementation of Lake Okeechobee Protection Plan including development of a technical plan for Phase II of the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Construction Project by February 1, 2008

 Development of two new Protection Plans for the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie River Watersheds to identify watershed storage and water quality projects by January 1, 2009

Northern Everglades Protection Plan Requirements



- Identify geographic extent of watershed
- Be coordinated as needed with other protection plans
- Be achieved through phased program of implementation
- Utilize adopted TMDLs as basis for pollutant load reduction objectives
- Include a goal for salinity envelopes and freshwater inflow targets for the estuary



Summary of St. Lucie River Watershed Protection Plan



St. Lucie River Watershed Protection Plan-Cooperating Agencies



- Coordinating Agencies
 - •South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD)
 - •Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)
 - •Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS).
- Affected counties and municipalities
 - •Martin County.

St. Lucie River Watershed Protection Plan-Elements



Watershed Construction Project

Watershed Pollutant Control Program

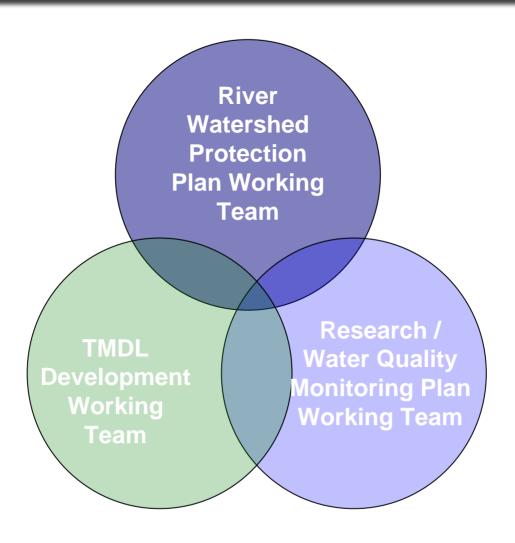
Watershed Research and Water Quality Monitoring Program

Moving Forward with Legislative Requirements



- Legislation identifies lead agency and cooperating parties for the various requirements
- Lead agencies will identify the appropriate process for addressing specific requirements, which may include
 - Creation of working team
 - Rulemaking
 - Conducting evaluations and analysis
 - Establishment of procedures and programs
 - Interagency coordination and public involvement
- Agencies will coordinate as necessary to ensure coordination and consistency across efforts

Interaction Between Working Teams



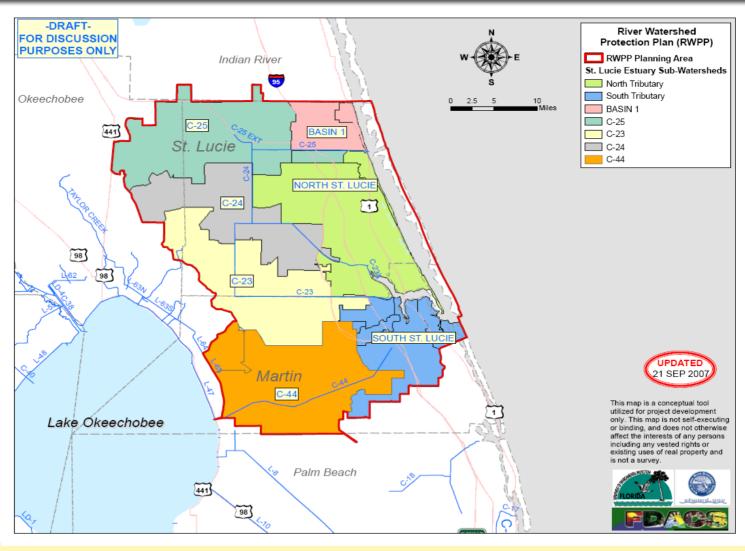


Research and Water Quality Monitoring Plan Development



St. Lucie Watershed Planning Area





St. Lucie River Watershed Research and Water Quality Monitoring Program

- Developed by the SFWMD, in cooperation with the coordinating agencies and local governments
- This program shall-
 - Build upon the SFWMD's existing research program
 - Shall be sufficient to carry out, comply with, or assess the plans, programs, and other responsibilities
 - Conduct an assessment of the water volumes and timing from Lake Okeechobee and St. Lucie River Watershed and their relative contribution to the timing and volume of water delivered to the estuary

St. Lucie River Watershed Protection Plan Working Team



- This team will take lead on technical analysis and planning process necessary
- Team will convene on a regular basis to discuss, develop, and evaluate work products

St. Lucie River Watershed Protection Plan Working Team



- Team work products will be presented and discussed through various venues, including-
 - Northern Everglades Interagency Meeting
 - Water Resources Advisory Commission (WRAC)
 - WRAC- Lake Okeechobee Committee
 - SFWMD Governing Board Meetings
- Opportunity will be provided for public input during these venues

Technical Plan Development Schedule



Plan Development

Through Spring 2008

Draft Plan Preparation

Summer 2008

Public Review

Fall 2008

Submit Plan to Legislature

January 1, 2009



Objectives, Outlines and Process



Objectives



 Adequate Monitor Station to Quantify Project Level Load Reduction

 Adequate Monitoring to Measure Effects of Load Reductions

 Adequately Assess Water Volumes and Relative Timing of Water Entering Estuary

Objectives - continue



• Identify and develop tools (e.g. models) to predict nutrient load reductions achieved by management measures and associated ecosystem response.

Provide necessary data to support and improve predictive tools and apply adaptive management.

Outline



- Introduction
- Goals and Objectives
- Monitoring on a Regional Scale
- Monitoring on the Project Level
- Research for Adaptive Management
- Recommendations

Process for Developing Research and Water Quality Monitoring Plan



- Finalize Goals and Objectives (next time)
- Finalize Document Outline (next time)
- Inventory of Current Monitoring and Ongoing Research Studies
- Identify Additional Monitoring Needs (necessary to meet objectives)
- Research for Adaptive Management